

1                                   **BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF**  
2                                   **MASSAGE THERAPY**

3 In the Matter of:

4 **RONNIE HARRIS JR.**  
5 Holder of License No. **MT-20315**

**BOARD CASE NOS. 20-110**

6 For the Practice as a Massage Therapist  
7 In the State of Arizona

**DECISION AND ORDER**

8 **RESPONDENT**

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10                   On October 28, 2019, during a regularly scheduled board meeting, the Arizona State  
11 Board of Massage Therapy (“Board”) held an Administrative Hearing to hear evidence, testimony  
12 and arguments regarding this case. Assistant Attorney General Michael Raine represented the  
13 State. Ronnie Harris Jr. (“Respondent”) was present and represented himself. Assistant Attorney  
14 General, Marc Harris, of the Licensing and Enforcement Section of the Attorney General’s Office,  
15 appeared, in person, to provide independent legal advice to the Board. After hearing all of the  
16 evidence and arguments presented by the parties, the Board issues the following Findings of Fact,  
Conclusions of Law and Order:

17                                   **PARTIES AND JURISDICTION**

- 18           1.     The Board is the duly constituted authority for licensing and regulating the practice of  
19                                   massage therapy in the State of Arizona.
- 20           2.     Respondent is the holder of license number MT-20315, which allows Respondent to  
21                                   practice as a massage therapist in the State of Arizona.
- 22           3.     Under A.R.S. § 32-4201, et seq., the Board possess jurisdiction over the subject matter  
23                                   and over Respondent as a licensee of the Board.

24                                   **FINDING OF FACT**

- 25           1.     On June 3, 2018, July 10, 2018, and November 29, 2018, Respondent provided massage  
26                                   therapy services to client LG at Elements-Moon Valley Spa in Phoenix, Arizona.

2. During the massage, Respondent provided LG with unprofessionalism, had sexual contact with a client, improper touching and used inappropriate conversation (Language).

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### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-4253(A)(6) (engaging in any act or practice in violation of this chapter or any board rule).

2. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-4253(A)(10) (engaging in conduct that could result in harm or injury to the public).

3. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-4253(A)(15) (engaging in sexual activity with a client) as that term is defined in A.R.S. § 32-4253(B)(2)(e) (defining “sexual activity” to include a breast massage without prior written consent).

4. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-4253(A)(16) (failing to adhere to the recognized standards and ethics of the massage therapy profession).

### ORDER

Based on the Board’s adoption of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby ordered that license number MT-20315 issued to Ronnie Harris Jr. to practice as a massage therapist in the State of Arizona is **SUSPENDED FOR SIX (6) MONTHS**, Fined \$500.00 Civil Fine, Must complete sixteen (16) Board approved Continuing Educational classes in Business Practices and Ethics, and the Respondent has to return to the Board after April 2020.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS:

1. Respondent shall personally appear before the Board when requested to do so by the Board or Board staff.

2. Respondent shall obey all federal and state laws and rules governing the practice of Massage Therapists.

3. Respondent shall pay all costs associated with complying with this Order.

4. If Respondent violates this Order in any way or fails to fulfill the requirements of this Order, the Board, after giving the Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke, suspend or take other disciplinary actions against Respondent's license. The issue at such a hearing will be limited solely to whether this Order has been violated.

5. Respondent shall remain in compliance with all requirements of his Order and shall inform the Board within ten (10) days regarding any changes to the terms of his Order or his address of record with the Board.

The Effective Date of this Decision and Order is the date that is signed by Board's Executive Director.

## NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Respondent is hereby notified that he has the right to petition for a rehearing or review by filing a petition with the Board's Executive Director within thirty (30) days after service of this Order. A.R.S. § 41-1092.09. The petition must set forth legally sufficient reasons for granting a rehearing. A.A.C. R4-15-401(C). Service of this Order is effective on the date of personal delivery or five days after the date of mailing. If a motion for rehearing is not filed, the Board's Order becomes effective thirty (30) days after it is mailed to the Respondent. Respondent is further notified that the filing of a motion for rehearing is required to preserve any rights of appeal to the Superior Court.

DATED this 4th day of November, 2019

ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

By: Thomas Augherton  
Thomas Augherton, Executive Director

Original Decision and Order  
filed this 4th day of November 2019 with the:

Arizona State Board of Massage Therapy  
1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3401  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

1 Copy of the foregoing sent via  
2 Regular and Electronic mail this  
3 4th day of November 2019 to:

4 Ronnie Harris, Jr.  
5 711 N Evergreen Rd. #2003  
6 Mesa, Arizona 85201  
7 [ronniejmassages@gmail.com](mailto:ronniejmassages@gmail.com)

8 Copy of the foregoing sent via  
9 Electronic mail this 4th day of November 2019 to:

10 Michael Raine, Assistant Attorney General  
11 Office of Arizona Attorney General – SGD/LES  
12 2005 North Central Avenue  
13 Phoenix, Arizona 85067  
14 [michael.raine@azag.gov](mailto:michael.raine@azag.gov)

15 Marc Harris, Assistant Attorney General  
16 Licensing & Enforcement Section  
17 Office of the Attorney General - SGD/LES  
18 2005 North Central Avenue  
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21 By:  \_\_\_\_\_